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LETTER DATED 7 JULY 1998 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED ARAB EMIRATES TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith the text of paragraph (a) of that part of the final communiqué adopted at the sixty-seventh session of the Ministerial Council of the Gulf Cooperation Council, held on 28 June 1998 in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, that concerns the occupation by Iran of the three islands belonging to the United Arab Emirates.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Mohammad A. ABULHASAN
Permanent Representative

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Annex

The occupation of the three islands belonging to the United Arab Emirates, and relations with Iran

(a) The occupation of the three islands belonging to the United Arab Emirates

The Council reviewed developments with regard to the issue of Iran's occupation of the Greater Tunb, the Lesser Tunb and Abu Musa, islands that belong to the United Arab Emirates, in the light of the visit of the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran to Abu Dhabi on 23 May 1998. It expressed its optimism at the results achieved by that visit and its hope that continued contacts between the two countries would be conducive to a positive response by the Iranian Government to the sincere appeals made to it to pursue peaceful means to resolve the ongoing dispute concerning the islands in accordance with the principles and norms of international law, including agreement to refer the issue to the International Court of Justice. At the same time, the Council stressed its established position affirming the sovereignty of the United Arab Emirates over the three islands and its unconditional support for all the peaceful measures it is taking to re-establish that sovereignty. It again urges the Iranian Government to end its occupation of the islands, to rescind all unilateral measures taken in the past and remove all of the installations built, and to resolve the dispute by peaceful means in accordance with the principles and norms of international law, including agreement to refer the issue to the International Court of Justice.